

United States. It is notably, the largest US-flag commercial fleet in the world.

Mr. Mollers' ties to the United States go back to 1910, well before he was even born. In that year his father, Arnold Peter Moller, married Chastine Estelle McKinney, a native of Kansas City, MO. Returning to Copenhagen, the senior Moller had by 1940 built a fleet of 46 ships, many of which were engaged by the US and its allies in WWII.

April 1940 saw Germany invaded Denmark and young Maersk McKinney Moller's life fundamentally changed. With his bride of five days, he came to the United States. With personal assets blocked by the war, times were financially lean and his lifestyle was modest. The ensuing eight years, however, marked a period that cemented his enduring bond with Americans and admiration for U.S. armed forces.

By the time WWII ended in 1945, 148 Maersk seamen had lost their lives and the Maersk fleet had lost 25 vessels.

That personal history would color much of what followed for Maersk-McKinney. After the war, he and his father rebuilt the AP Moller Group into the global shipping powerhouse it is today. Along the way, he has maintained a close relationship with the United States and her allies in ways that make a significant contribution to our national security.

For nearly 20 years Maersk Lines, Limited, has partnered with the United States Marine Corps to preposition ships and supplies where needed. Maersk ships, in fact, were the first vessels to arrive in Desert Storm and off-load critically needed Marine Corps supplies and equipment.

Prior to Desert Storm, Maersk Line, Limited obtained a secret clearance from the Department of Defense and now has a top-secret clearance to operate sensitive surveillance ships for the US Navy.

I point these things out to my colleagues for a couple of reasons. First, as a matter of general interest, I wish more of my colleagues could have the pleasure of visiting with Mr. Moller. His personal history has imbued him with a very thoughtful approach and seasoned perspective on global issues.

Second, as the man behind the largest commercial fleet of US-flag ships, he has proven to be a valuable partner to our defense interests. His ships and loading facilities and transportation infrastructure have moved literally tons of supplies that support our men and women in uniform.

In the future the Maritime Security Program, MSP, one of the programs critical for maintaining a US-flagged shipping fleet, will need to be reauthorized. During times of critical national need, MSP participants like Maersk Line, Limited are contractually obligated to the statutorily mandated Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement, VISA. I, for one, am reassured to know

that a man of Maersk McKinney Moller's stature and integrity is involved so strongly in this aspect of our national defense. He has proven his value to our Nation many times over.●

TOWNS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LAPTOP PROGRAM

● Mr. MILLER. Mr. President, I want to affirm what TIME magazine has written in its May 21, 2001, issue: Towns County Middle School in Georgia is one of America's "educational pioneers."

In my native Towns County, the digital divide has become the digital opportunity. Every middle school student in the county totes a laptop computer from school to home, courtesy of a Federal grant and local donations. Classroom wiring connects the laptops to the Internet, and teachers incorporate the Web into lesson plans. At home, students question teachers online about homework, and teachers email missed assignments to students who are out sick.

In a section called TIME's Schools of the Year, the magazine called this 265-student school "one of the best-wired middle schools in the U.S." and cited it as one of two middle schools in the Nation that has "found the most promising approaches to the most pressing challenges in education."

Principal Stephen Smith convinced me as Governor that giving take-home laptop computers to all middle-schoolers in Towns County would greatly enhance learning. We obtained a grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission and local donations to make this happen, and the program has succeeded beyond anyone's expectations. Test scores and attendance have increased, while discipline referrals have dropped. In addition, parents have become more involved in the school and more of them are earning their GEDs, and borrowing their kids' computers for assignments.

I am very proud of the achievements at Towns County Middle School, and I congratulate Principal Smith, his teachers and all the students and parents on this national recognition.●

FREEDOM TOWER

● Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today, the Cuban American National Foundation will dedicate Miami's "Freedom Tower" in celebration of Cuban Independence Day. This historic landmark is known to many Cuban political refugees as the "Ellis Island of the South." The Freedom Tower served as an immigration processing center in the 1960's and 1970's and became a symbol of democracy and freedom to Cubans fleeing from tyranny and oppression. I rise today to recognize not only this dedication, but the hard work and sacrifice of the

Cuban Americans in Florida who have added so much to our Nation, and who, through their work to restore the Freedom Tower, have given us yet another gift.●

HONORING ALBERT GAMPER, GEORGE RING, AND ROSE CALI

● Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President I rise today to recognize Albert R. Gamper, George M. Ring, and Rose Cali as they are honored by the New Jersey Network for their outstanding commitment to the young citizens of New Jersey, education and community-building.

Mr. Ring, a lifelong resident of New Jersey, has been an extremely active and generous citizen with public institutions, from the NJN Foundation to St. Barnabas Health Care Systems to Rutgers University, and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Mr. Gamper has devoted countless hours and tremendous energy to organizations that touch the lives of thousands of New Jersey's families.

I also wanted to salute Mr. Ring for his commitment to our Nation. He put his life on the line for this country when he served in the military and has received various distinguished medals for his many achievements, valor and dedicated service to America.

Ms. Cali, founder of the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center, has invested much of her time into education and the arts. As a board member of a major State educational institution of higher learning and as a board member of her community's museum, she has made critical contributions in both of these areas and continues to do so. I applaud her efforts.

New Jersey has been blessed with residents such as Mr. Gamper, Mr. Ring, and Ms. Cali who have made a great effort to make a difference. It is both an honor and an inspiration to recognize the dedication of these individuals and the impact they have on the community at large. I commend all three for their commitment and generosity to New Jersey and her residents.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)